

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3026

S E C R E T OTTAWA 02301

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, PFOR, CA

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL NUCLEAR POLICY STATEMENT

REF: STATE 67973

1. AS EXPECTED, CANADA WARMLY WELCOMES POLICY DECISIONS
OUTLINED REFTEL.

2. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER JAMIESON TOLD ME ON APRIL 1
THAT U.S. DECISION TO DEFER REPROCESSING OF PLUTONIUM
PARTICULARLY WELCOME AT THIS POINT BECAUSE IT BACKS CANADA
UP ON MOST DIFFICULT OF ISSUES CURRENTLY UNDER NEGOTIATION
WITH EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, I.E. CANADIAN DESIRE TO IMPOSE
VETO ON REPROCESSING OF CANADIAN-SUPPLIED FUEL.

3. JAMIESON NOTED THAT POLICY STATEMENT DID NOT ADDRESS
QUESTION OF FULL FUEL CYCLE SAFEGUARDS AND NPT ADHERENCE
AS CONDITION FOR ANY NUCLEAR TRANSACTIONS. CANADA CLEARLY
HOPES U.S. WILL ADOPT CANADIAN POSITION ON THESE ISSUES AS
SWEDEN NOW HAS. EVEN IF U.S. DOES NOT, JAMIESON SAID,
CANADA INTENDS TO HOLD TO ITS PRESENT POSITION INDEFI-
NITELY. SO FAR, COMMERCIAL PRESSURES ON GOC HAVE NOT BEEN
GREAT, DUE IN CONSIDERABLE PART TO FACT THAT JAPANESE HAVE
CONTINUED TO PAY FOR URANIUM THEY HAVE ON ORDER, DESPITE
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THEIR INABILITY TO SHIP.

4. CANADIAN OFFICIALS HAVE NOT HAD TIME TO ANALYZE FULLY
THE IMPLICATIONS OF NEW U.S. POLICY FOR URANIUM MARKET
AND ADEQUACY OF FUTURE URANIUM SUPPLIES. THERE ARE BOTH
OPTIMISTIC AND PESSIMISTIC SCHOOLS AMONG THE EXPERTS.
OFFICIALS DO ASK WHETHER DEFERRAL OF REPROCESSING MAY NOT

IMPLY A NEED TO IDENTIFY URANIUM SOURCING FOR 30 OR 40
YEARS, OR FAR MORE THAN NORMAL IN MINING OPERATIONS.

5. JAMIESON NOTED THAT CANADA IS DOING SOME WORK ON
ALTERNATIVE FUEL CYCLES, AND THAT THIS MIGHT BE PROMISING
AREA FOR ENHANCING BILATERAL COOPERATION. ENDERS

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